

Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) O157:H7

Background. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 is a food-borne illness. Infection may lead to bloody diarrhea and kidney failure. Each year, an estimated 73,000 cases of infection and 61 deaths occur in the United States. Most illness has been associated with eating undercooked, contaminated ground beef. However, person-to-person contact in families and childcare centers is also an important mode of transmission. Additionally, infection can occur after drinking raw milk and after swimming in or drinking sewage-contaminated water.

CDC > Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases > Disease Information. Health Topics A to Z.

Reporting. In Missouri, infection with *E. coli* O157:H7 has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here.

Nationally, infection with *E. coli* O157:H7 is a reportable disease. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

